

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4771

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL ANTWERP

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 07627

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, BE, UR, PO

SUBJECT: BELGIAN GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATES ALLEGATIONS THAT SOVIETS
PASSED FUNDS TO PORTUGESE CP THROUGH BELGIUM

1. INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE CARRIED STORY
BY DAVID FOUQUET AUGUST 25 THAT SOVIETS TRANSFERRED
\$5 MILLION TO PORTUGAL THROUGH JOINT BELGO-SOVIET,
ANTWERP-BASED TRANSWORLD MARINE SHIPPING CO. (TWM).
IHT STORY IS LARGELY REHASH OF STORIES WHICH
APPEARED ORIGINALLY IN GERMAN WEEKLY DIE WELT,
WHICH WERE PUBLISHED MAY 24 BY A FLEMISH PAPER
IN ANTWERP. SUBSTANCE OF AUGUST 25 IHT STORY HAS
BEEN PICKED UP AND RECEIVED WIDE PUBLICITY IN
FLEMISH AND SOME IN FRANCOPHONE PRESS.

2. BELGIAN PRESS REPORTS THAT BELGIAN INTELLIGENCE
SERVICES LEARNED OF \$5 MILLION TRANSFER TO PORTUGESE CP,
IN EARLY 1975, THROUGH TWM. PAYMENT ALLEGED TO
HAVE BEEN MADE BY TWM TO SOVIET EMPLOYEE OF
PORTUGESE SHIPPING COMPANY. BELGIAN EMPLOYEE OF
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TWM HAS CONFIRMED TRANSFER, BUT STATED THAT FUNDS

WERE TO FINANCE NEW SOVIET SHIPPING COMPANY IN
PORTUGAL.

3. FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS CONFIRMED TO US THAT
BELGIAN GOVERNMENT IS INVESTIGATING TWM'S ROLE IN
THE TRANSACTION. TWM IS 75 PERCENT SOVIET,
25 PERCENT BELGIAN OWNED. WHILE ISSUE IS EVIDENTLY
ONE OF GREAT SENSITIVITY WITHIN BELGIAN GOVERNMENT,
FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS CONCERNED DO NOT APPEAR
"UPSET" AS IHT REPORTED. RENNER

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NNN

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